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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/669,032	09/25/2000	Ryota Mita	16869P-014900US	3497

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EXAMINER

CHAU, COREY P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2644

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/669,032

Applicant(s)

MITA ET AL.

Examiner

Corey P Chau

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 18-19, 21-23, 25-26, and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5668337 to Kondo et al. (hereafter as Kondo).

3. Regarding Claim 18, Kondo discloses a melody sound reproducing unit comprising: an input unit which inputs melody data (Fig. 1); a controller which shifts a scale of melody data inputted by the input unit when a frequency of the inputted melody data is not in a predetermined range (i.e. in the event that a tone falling outside the pitch range defined by the note limiting range data contained in the channel table, the note data is modified by the octave so that the tone falls within the defined pitch range)(Fig. 6; column 15, line 59 to column 16, line 8); a memory which stores melody data inputted by the input unit when a frequency of the inputted melody data is in the predetermined range, and stores melody data shifted by the controller when the frequency of the inputted melody data is not in the predetermined range (Figs. 1 and 6, column 16, lines 9-11); a signal generator for generating an audio signal based on melody data stored in the memory (Fig. 1); and a speaker (1C) for outputting an audio signal generated by the signal generator.

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4. Regarding Claim 19, Kondo discloses the predetermined range is a range between a first and a second frequency (column 9, lines 11-14).

5. Regarding Claim 21, Kondo discloses the melody data includes a first tone data and a second tone data, and wherein the signal generator generates a first audio signal corresponding to the first tone data and a second audio signal corresponding to the second tone data with predetermined timing (Figs. 1 and 2A-B; column 10, line 66 to column 11, line 20).

6. Regarding Claim 22, Kondo discloses the first audio signal and the second audio signal form a chord relation in intervals and scales with each other (column 15, line 59 to column 16, line 8; claim 5).

7. Regarding Claim 23, Kondo discloses a melody sound reproducing unit comprising: an input unit which inputs melody data (Fig. 1); a controller which changes a melody data inputted by the input unit into a melody data whose frequency is in a range between a first frequency and a second frequency when a frequency of the inputted melody data is not in the range (i.e. in the event that a tone falling outside the pitch range defined by the note limiting range data contained in the channel table, the note data is modified by the octave so that the tone falls within the defined pitch range)(Fig. 6; column 15, line 59 to column 16, line 8); a memory which stores melody data inputted by the input unit when a frequency of the inputted melody data is in the range, and stores melody data shifted by the controller when the frequency of the inputted melody data is not in the range (Figs. 1 and 6, column 16, lines 9-11); a signal

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generator for generating an audio signal based on melody data stored in the memory;
and a speaker (1C) for outputting an audio signal generated by the signal generator.

8. Claim 25 is essentially similar to Claim 18 and is rejected for the reasons stated above apropos to Claim 18.

9. Claim 26 is essentially similar to Claim 19 and is rejected for the reasons stated above apropos to Claim 19.

10. Claim 28 is essentially similar to Claim 21 and is rejected for the reasons stated above apropos to Claim 21.

11. Claim 29 is essentially similar to Claim 22 and is rejected for the reasons stated above apropos to Claim 22.

12. Claim 30 is essentially similar to Claim 23 and is rejected for the reasons stated above apropos to Claim 23.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. Claims 20, 24, 27, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5668337 to Kondo.

15. Regarding Claims 20, 24, 27, and 31, Kondo does not expressly disclose the first frequency is 400 Hz and the second frequency is 8 kHz. However it would have been

obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide any desired frequency range in order for the speaker to produce a good sound quality, such as the first frequency is 400 Hz and the second frequency is 8 kHz.

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 8-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

17. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corey P Chau whose telephone number is (703)305-0683. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tran Sinh can be reached on (703)305-4040. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 7, 2005


XU MEI
PRIMARY EXAMINER